

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please ~~REPLACE~~ the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7, as follows:

A² The present invention generally relates to authentication apparatuses and storage mediums, and more particularly to an authentication apparatus which authenticates individuals using biometric information and to a computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to carry out such an authentication.

Please ~~REPLACE~~ the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, as follows:

A³ Compared to an authentication apparatus which uses a password or the like, the authentication apparatus which uses the biometric information makes it more difficult for a person to assume a false identify. But on the other hand, in the case where the biometric information of the individuals is measured and used in the authentication apparatus, it is necessary to prevent privacy information of the individuals from leaking (i.e., unauthorized disclosure to, or theft thereof by, third parties).

[Please ~~REPLACE~~ the paragraph spanning pages 3-4, as follows:]

Conventionally, stand-alone type authentication apparatuses were the majority, but recently, the use of client-server type authentication apparatuses coupled to networks has increased. In the case of the client-server type authentication apparatus, it is necessary to register the biometric information of the individuals in a server, and transmit the biometric information via the network. For this reason, if the reliability of the server and/or the network is poor and the data management reliability is not sufficiently high, there is a possibility of the biometric information of the individuals being stolen by or leaked to an unauthorized third party.

Please ~~REPLACE~~ the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 10, as follows:

A⁴ A description will be given of a first aspect of the present invention. An authentication apparatus shown in FIG. 1A generally includes a measuring means 1 for measuring biometric information of an individual; a converting means 2a for subjecting the biometric information to a predetermined conversion process so as to obtain converted biometric information, an extracting means 3a for extracting feature information from the converted biometric information